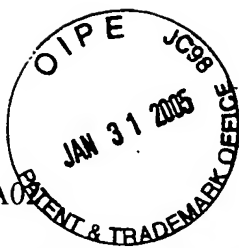


P23963.A0



IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Makoto IIKAWA et al.

Mail Stop Issue Fee

Group Art Unit: 2873

Appln. No.: 10/695,909

Confirmation NO.: 5678

Examiner: Jack DINH

Filed: October 30, 2003

For: CAM RIB SUPPORT STRUCTURE

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner For Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Issue Fee
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowability, mailed by the Patent and Trademark Office on November 5, 2004 and to the Statement of Reasons for Allowance attached thereto, Applicants wish to clarify the record with respect to the basis for the patentability of claims in the present application. In this regard, while Applicants do not disagree with the Examiner's indication that certain identified features are not disclosed by the references, Applicants submit that each of the claims in the present application recite a particular combination of features, and that the basis for patentability of each of these claims is based on the totality of the particular features recited therein.

P23963.A02

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Makoto IIKAWA et al.


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January 25, 2005
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